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Chairman: Mr. Mochochoko ..... (Lesotho)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

Agenda item 160: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/54/37 and A/54/301 and Add.1; A/C.6/54/2; A/C.6/54/L.1 and L.2)

1. **Mr. Kirsch** (Canada), Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee and the Working Group of the Sixth Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210, introducing the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on its third session from 15 to 26 March 1999 (A/54/37) and the report of the Working Group on its meetings from 27 September to 8 October 1999 (A/C.6/54/L.2), said that the Ad Hoc Committee and the Working Group had been charged by the General Assembly in resolution 53/108 with considering two draft conventions, one on nuclear terrorism and the other on terrorist financing.

2. The text of the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism had been negotiated in 1998. Informal discussions in 1999 had not been able to resolve the remaining issue regarding the scope of application of the convention, as set out in article 4. The issue was essentially a political rather than a legal one. If the political will existed, a drafting solution could be found to satisfy all concerns through the efforts of the coordinator on the issue, who was actively consulting with delegations.

3. On the basis of a proposal submitted by the French delegation, the Ad Hoc Committee and subsequently the Working Group had been able to make rapid progress on elaborating a draft international convention for the suppression of the financing of terrorism, culminating in a revised text proposed by the Friends of the Chairman, contained in annex I to the Working Group's report (A/C.6/54/L.2), which had garnered extensive support from delegations.

4. The draft convention was intended to complement other anti-terrorist conventions by cutting off sources of funding for terrorism. It provided a comprehensive definition of the acts constituting the offences of terrorist financing in article 2, which States were required to criminalize under their domestic law. Another innovation was a mechanism by which relevant offences created pursuant to future anti-terrorist instruments could be incorporated into the scope of the convention. The draft also provided for the civil, criminal or administrative liability of legal entities for offences committed by persons responsible for the management or control of the entity.

5. In other respects it drew heavily on the provisions of the previously agreed conventions. Many operative clauses, such as the "extradite or prosecute" provisions of article 10 and the various provisions on mutual legal assistance and cooperation, were taken from or closely modelled on the recently adopted International Convention on the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings. However, the standard "prosecute or extradite" provisions were strengthened by inclusion of a provision for the conditional surrender of an accused by a State that did not ordinarily extradite its own nationals. A notable feature of the draft convention was that States parties could not refuse a request for extradition or mutual legal assistance on the sole ground that it concerned a fiscal offence.

6. The draft proposed by the Working Group was a carefully negotiated text, which had emerged from highly constructive consultations. While it did not fully satisfy any delegation, he would caution against reopening the text, since it represented a delicate balance of interests. He therefore recommended that the Sixth Committee consider it with a view to adoption.

7. **Ms. Flores Liera** (Mexico), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that the Group unequivocally condemned international terrorism as a serious crime that threatened innocent lives and undermined universally held values. It firmly believed, however, that terrorism could be successfully combated through international efforts, both bilateral and multilateral, that were strictly in accordance with humanitarian law.

8. The Rio Group had been promoting such efforts in the Americas. The Declaration and Plan of Action adopted at the Inter-American Specialized Conference on Terrorism held in Lima in 1996 had demonstrated the region's interest in strengthening cooperation mechanisms to combat terrorism. Since then, additional steps had been taken, most recently the establishment by the Organization of American States (OAS) of an Inter-American Committee against Terrorism. The Committee was composed of the competent national authorities of the OAS member States, an arrangement that facilitated the exchange of information. Its purpose was to foster regional cooperation in preventing, combating and eliminating terrorist acts, and its mandate included the investigation of sources of financing for terrorist activities.

9. The promising work done within the United Nations since the watershed adoption of the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism in 1994 had demonstrated not only the seriousness with which Member States addressed the issue but also the effectiveness of the General Assembly as the premier deliberative and legislative body of the United Nations system. The members of the Rio Group had supported all initiatives raised in the Ad Hoc

Committee to strengthen the framework of international law against terrorism and had participated actively in the negotiations on the draft international convention for the suppression of the financing of terrorism.

10. Innovative in content and scope, the draft convention would significantly strengthen the hand of States in their efforts to combat international terrorism by cutting off sources of financing. It was a significant advance that it would not be necessary to prove that funds had actually been used to commit one of the acts defined in article 2, paragraph 1, as long as the person prosecuted had provided funds with the intention or knowledge that they would be used for such illicit acts. Other positive innovations were the involvement of financial institutions in the detection of suspicious transactions and the provisions to enhance information exchange between States. The Rio Group would like to see the draft convention adopted and opened for signature during the current session of the General Assembly.

11. With regard to the draft international convention on the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, the members of the Rio Group were more than willing to continue working to reach a successful conclusion. In addition to the elaboration of binding instruments, however, greater attention should be paid to putting in place international cooperation measures.

12. **Mr. Kiuru** (Finland), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the associated countries Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area, said that acts of terrorism continued to pose as serious a challenge to the international community as when the agenda had first been introduced in 1972. Terrorism targeted innocent civilians and disrupted the fabric of daily life; it undermined the functioning of democratic institutions and threatened international peace and security. The European Union unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms, regardless of motive or origin. However, efforts to suppress terrorism must be compatible with respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Violence should never be directed at civilians in the name of combating terrorism.

13. The European Union was currently enhancing its capacity to prevent and respond to the threat of international terrorism. In addition to cooperation and exchange of information between member States, Europol had now been given new responsibilities in countering terrorism, related chiefly to the exchange, processing and storage of information. All States members of the European Union were parties to the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism; another effective instrument was the agreement on extradition between member States. All European Union countries had implemented strict rules on the handling of explosives.

14. The European Union also cooperated closely with many third States in the suppression of terrorism, notably with the United States through the intensified Transatlantic Dialogue, with the associated countries and the Russian Federation in regular meetings on terrorism and with the Mediterranean countries in the framework of the Barcelona process. It was also providing training and technical assistance to the Palestinian Authority.

15. The increasing sophistication of terrorist support and funding networks made a coordinated response from the international community a necessity. The European Union urged all States that had not yet done so to become parties to the 11 international conventions against terrorism. The draft convention on the suppression of the financing of terrorism would be a welcome addition to the legal framework, since cutting off financial resources was one of the most effective ways of combating terrorism. The General Assembly should adopt the convention at its current session. In addition, the draft convention on the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism would also usefully complement the existing body of law, and every effort should be made to complete it as soon as possible.

16. Over the past 25 years, the United Nations and its specialized agencies had created a network of conventions for the prevention and suppression of terrorism. Those conventions were the result of a sectoral approach, which consisted of identifying particular offences often committed by terrorist groups and working out specific instruments for their suppression. The conventions provided a strong extradite-or-prosecute regime for the acts covered, ensuring that all offenders who were not extradited by the State party on whose territory they were found would be handed over to the appropriate authorities.

17. The Ad Hoc Committee had continued that tradition, with remarkable success, elaborating three international conventions within a short time. The International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings had already attracted 51 signatures and several ratifications and would, it was hoped, enter into force soon. Once adopted and in force, the two more recent draft conventions against nuclear terrorism and the financing of terrorism would also significantly improve the ability of Governments to work

together closely and effectively to reduce the threat of terrorism.

18. The European Union believed that the step-by-step approach had been essential to the success of the legal responses to international terrorism. The clear focus on the suppression and punishment of those offences without regard to the cause and motive of the offender had been equally essential. All violent acts of terror in whatever form, for whatever reason and by whomever committed, must be regarded as criminal and unjustifiable. The draft convention proposed by India could be considered in that context.

19. In its resolution 53/108, the Assembly had decided to address the question of convening a high-level conference in 2000 under the auspices of the United Nations to further strengthen international cooperation against terrorism. The European Union was ready to discuss the timing, agenda, objectives and other modalities of such a conference with all interested delegations in an appropriate forum.

20. The delegations on whose behalf he spoke expressed appreciation to the Secretary-General for the report on measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/54/301 and Add.1). In the hope that the compendium of national laws and regulations concerning terrorism would be published soon, the European Union urged those States which had not yet provided information on their national laws and regulations to do so promptly.

21. The European Union commended the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for its valuable efforts to prevent and respond to illicit trafficking in nuclear materials and other radioactive sources and to enhance the physical protection of nuclear material. The specific recommendations related to sabotage of nuclear facilities and nuclear material were of particular relevance. The technical expertise of IAEA had also been valuable to the Ad Hoc Committee and the Working Group of the Sixth Committee in negotiating the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism.

22. The information supplied by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) concerning the downward trend in unlawful interference with civil aviation in the 1990s showed the impact of existing aviation safety instruments and arrangements. The European Union also noted with satisfaction the conclusions of ICAO concerning the compatibility of the provisions of the Terrorist Bombings Convention with those instruments and arrangements.

23. **Mr. Valdivieso** (Colombia) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by Mexico on behalf of the Rio Group.

24. He expressed appreciation to the Secretary-General for referring in document A/54/301 to the initiatives taken by the Organization of American States (OAS) in the area of hemispheric cooperation to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism.

25. The fight against terrorism would continue to be one of the most important challenges for the United Nations in the next millennium. The resurgence of terrorist attacks came as a harsh reminder that no State was immune from terrorism.

26. His country continued to be among those hardest hit by terrorist acts. A car bomb had exploded in the capital the day before, killing at least eight people and injuring more than 40. The authorities had reacted angrily, reaffirming their determination to combat such horrendous acts, which violated human rights and international law.

27. Armed guerilla groups in his country targeted civilians, subjecting them to kidnapping, extortion and threats in order to obtain resources. They also carried out continual attacks against the environment and State infrastructure.

28. His Government firmly supported the efforts of the United Nations to establish a legal framework for the fight against terrorism. The General Assembly was now focusing on reaching agreement on the draft convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. It was to be hoped that the consultations carried out under the guidance of the coordinator would result in a text that addressed the concerns of all delegations with regard to the scope of the convention.

29. Similarly, his delegation expressed satisfaction at the results achieved by the Working Group in the elaboration of the draft international convention for the suppression of the financing of terrorism. The participation of all delegations in a cooperative and constructive spirit had produced a compromise text which his delegation hoped would be adopted by the General Assembly at the current session.

30. The definition of international terrorism was a matter of far-reaching importance. Terrorism was a global phenomenon, and developing an effective strategy against it required the international community to know with certainty what it was dealing with. The definition of terrorism would be a useful tool that would enhance the international community's operational capacity for fighting terrorism.

31. In that connection, his delegation supported the Indian proposal that the Ad Hoc Committee should undertake the study of a comprehensive convention on terrorism in 2000 and the call by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries for

the convening of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism.

32. **Mr. Kawamura** (Japan) said that as the number of terrorist acts increased, it was all the more urgent for the international community to reaffirm its united stance against terrorism. His delegation condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and was determined to combat it by all possible means. His Government strongly opposed concessions to terrorist demands and insisted that the rule of law be upheld by the courts.

33. One of the tasks before the General Assembly was to elaborate a draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. Informal consultations were being held under the guidance of the coordinator. His delegation intended to take an active part in the consultations with a view to the instrument being finalized as soon as possible. It was unfortunate that the draft convention had not yet reached the stage of adoption although it had been under consideration for a year and a half. The impasse was due to one outstanding issue of which all Member States were aware. While his delegation understood the feelings of certain delegations, the adoption of the draft convention should not be delayed on that account. Acts of nuclear terrorism could occur at any moment and quick action was essential. His delegation hoped that the differences of views on that question could be reconciled so that the draft could be finalized and adopted by consensus.

34. His delegation had participated actively in the deliberations on the draft international convention for the suppression of the financing of terrorism. Negotiations had been very difficult since the draft convention touched upon many sensitive matters. It was not easy to elaborate a convention of that type since not all States had the same criminal-law system. While his delegation still had many difficulties with regard to the draft text, it stressed that if each State maintained its opposition, an international convention would never be achieved. Flexibility was needed at a certain stage. In that spirit, his delegation supported the draft proposed by the Working Group and hoped that it would be adopted at the current session.

35. With regard to the Indian proposal for the elaboration of a comprehensive convention on the suppression of terrorism, his delegation supported the idea of combating terrorism from a global perspective. Nevertheless, it had reservations at the current stage with regard to the proposed text.

36. **Mr. Al-Naqbi** (United Arab Emirates) said that terrorism in all its forms was one of the most serious challenges facing the international community and posed a threat to regional and international peace, security, stability and development. His country categorically condemned terrorism, as a crime against humanity, and had enacted legislation to combat that phenomenon. It was, however, important to differentiate between acts of terrorism committed by individuals, groups or States, and legitimate acts of resistance undertaken by peoples subjected to colonial rule, oppression and foreign occupation with a view to regaining their legitimate rights, in accordance with the principle of international legitimacy. His country was a party to many of the relevant international conventions, and was working to strengthen cooperation with neighbouring States and regional and international organizations. No country could deal unaided with the problem of terrorism: responsibility for dealing with that danger was shared by every country in the world. His country was extremely concerned by the intermittent media campaigns that linked Islam with international terrorism. Tolerance was a basic precept of Islam, which fully respected the basic interests of the individual and the security of societies and provided penalties for crimes against the individual. He urged States to accept their responsibility to end such defamatory campaigns against Islam. Regional and international cooperation was the most logical and effective means of combating the phenomenon of international terrorism, and he urged that an effective and appropriate mechanism should be found in order to implement a joint strategy, while respecting regional and international security and peace.

37. **Mr. Zmeevski** (Russian Federation) said that international terrorism was waging a genuine war against the entire international community. The lives of thousands of innocent people had been taken away through barbarous acts of terrorism; civilians were still being taken hostage in various countries; and cross-border channels for the preparation and financing of terrorist acts were springing up.

38. Terrorism was a criminal offence without any justification. States had a clear obligation to strike a determined blow against any encroachment by terrorists.

39. For his country, which had recently been subjected to a massive assault by the armed forces of international terrorism, that was not mere rhetoric. His Government was determined to eradicate terrorism on its soil. That was the context in which the counter-terrorist operation in the Chechen Republic was being carried out.

40. His delegation was convinced that an effective fight against terrorism was possibly only through the concerted efforts of all States on a firm basis of international law. The United Nations deserved credit for organizing global

antiterrorist cooperation. In recent years the Organization had taken many steps towards implementing the General Assembly's Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, as well as the prohibition against the granting of political asylum to terrorists. Other major achievements included the adoption in 1997 of the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings.

41. His delegation welcomed the draft international convention for the suppression of the financing of terrorism, elaborated in the framework of the Ad Hoc Committee and the Working Group of the Sixth Committee. His delegation believed that the draft convention was complete and should be adopted at the current session. It would undoubtedly fill a major gap in the existing international legal regime of antiterrorist cooperation among States.

42. Real possibilities existed also for compromise on the provisions of the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism that remained in dispute. The compromise formulas on the scope of the convention, which had been worked out through informal contacts during the inter-sessional period and circulated to the Working Group, could be a basis for agreement. Those formulas should not be regarded as final, but as the starting point for an amicable and constructive negotiating process, which, it was to be hoped, would begin in the near future.

43. His delegation expressed appreciation to the representative of Australia for agreeing to serve as coordinator of the consultations on the draft, and to the representative of Jordan, for his efforts to find a formulation acceptable to all.

44. The Committee's ability to reach agreement on the draft conventions was an indication of the degree to which the international community was ready to undertake larger projects, foremost among which was the convening under United Nations auspices of a high-level international conference against terrorism.

45. The adoption of those conventions at the current session would also pave the way for the Ad Hoc Committee to begin work on a framework convention for the suppression of terrorism on the basis of the Indian proposal.

46. In a situation in which terrorism was becoming a serious threat to international peace and security, the Security Council had participated actively in the anti-terrorist efforts of the international community. The adoption, at the initiative of the Russian Federation, of Council resolution 1269 (1999) fitted into that framework. The point, naturally, was not for the Security Council to take the place of the General Assembly, but to strengthen cooperation between the Council and other United Nations organs, especially the Assembly, on the basis of the powers conferred on them by the Charter of the United Nations, in countering the terrorist threat to peace and security.

47. The efforts of States at the regional and subregional level were a very important element in eliminating the threat of terrorism. In June 1999, seven countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan) had concluded a treaty for cooperation among the participating States on the suppression of terrorism.

48. As a member of Group of Eight, his country also wished to draw attention to the anti-terrorist section of the final documents of the Cologne Summit, and also the relevant statement from the Moscow Conference of Ministers of the Group of Eight, held on 19 and 20 October 1999.

49. The Russian Federation was actively taking anti-terrorist measures at the national level. Federal legislation on the suppression of terrorism passed in June 1998 had established a firm basis for the law enforcement agencies to carry out national and international terrorism prevention activities. At the end of the previous year the Federal Anti-terrorist Commission, composed of the leaders of all interested Russian departments, had begun its work. On 7 May 1999, the Russian Federation had signed the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism. Intensive work was taking place to prepare for ratification of that Convention, as well as the Rome Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, the Rome Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms on the Continental Shelf, and also the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel. On the practical level, issues were being resolved in connection with accession to the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection.

50. **Mr. Lee** (Republic of Korea) said that, despite the welcome measures taken at national and international levels for the prevention and suppression of international terrorism, that phenomenon had nevertheless become one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, taking new and more violent forms. There had been a steady increase in terrorist activities, with highly destructive consequences. No State was immune to the scourge of terrorism, and it was imperative that the international community should intensify its efforts to combat that evil

trend. The existing international legal instruments for the prevention and suppression of international terrorism had to be improved, while the coverage of existing legal norms should be expanded.

51. It was gratifying that the Sixth Committee had been playing an important role as an effective forum for developing international legal instruments dealing with terrorism.

52. His delegation welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolution 1269 (1999) on the prevention and suppression of international terrorism, and fully supported the Security Council's call for speedy adoption of the pending conventions and for actions to deny safe haven to those who planned, financed or committed terrorist acts by ensuring their apprehension and prosecution or extradition.

53. His delegation also approved of the draft convention for the suppression of the financing of terrorism, which was one of the most effective steps the international community could take to combat acts of international terrorism. He hoped that the Convention would be adopted by the end of the year.

54. Turning to the issue of nuclear terrorism, he said it was regrettable that agreement had not been reached on several issues relating to the draft convention on the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. There were two compelli ıg reasons for adopting the Convention sooner rather than later. First, the possibility of the use of weapons of mass destruction by terrorists had only increased in the evolving security environment of the post-cold war era. The risks of nuclear terrorism far exceeded those of conventional terrorism, and had a potentially devastating impact on international peace and security. It was of the utmost importance to work together actively towards expanding adherence to and coverage of existing international legal norms to prevent potential acts of nuclear terrorism.

55. Second, the draft convention was on the whole fairly balanced and faithfully reflected the various concerns of the international community. It was compatible with all relevant legal instruments dealing with terrorism and did not conflict with any other related undertakings in the field. It also usefully complemented the existing body of law on anti-terrorism.

56. The Republic of Korea, which had been the victim of flagrant acts of international terrorism in recent years, had taken an active part in numerous international efforts that reinforced the struggle against acts of terrorism. His Government was party to 7 of the 11 terrorism-related treaties, and was positively considering its accession to the remaining 4 in the near future.

57. He reiterated his Government's full support for and commitment to the collective efforts of the international community to combat and eliminate international terrorism.

58. **Mr. Ibrahim** (Yemen) said that terrorism claimed the lives of hundreds of innocent victims, threatened security and stability and hampered the development process. It was not possible to condone or to keep silent about terrorism: his country was making every possible effort to combat that serious phenomenon, and had enacted legislation which provided the severest penalties for acts of terrorism. Yemen condemned all forms of terrorism, and declared its willingness to cooperate in regional and international endeavours to counteract that threat. It had become a party to several regional and international conventions concerning terrorism, and welcomed the draft international convention for the suppression of the financing of terrorism and the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. His delegation supported the call for the holding of an international conference and the formulation of a comprehensive convention on the suppression of international terrorism. He urged all States and Governments to increase endeavours to halt terrorist crimes and to refuse sanctuary to those who had committed them, with a view to eliminating all forms of terrorism, whether committed by an individual, a group or a State. He hoped that national, regional and international efforts to counteract that serious phenomenon would increase and that terrorist incidents would decrease. His delegation fully supported Security Council resolution 1269 (1999) concerning the elimination of international terrorism.

59. **Mr. Zhdanovich** (Belarus) said that terrorism was one of the most complex phenomena of the contemporary world. Every year, hundreds of people were victims of terrorist acts. The number of terrorist and extremist groups, and the variety of political platforms and programmes of action represented were increasing, and the methods and technology used were becoming increasingly sophisticated.

60. His country condemned all acts of terrorism, whatever their form or aims. It had consistently advocated enhancing the effectiveness of international cooperation, and attached great importance to the efforts of the United Nations and other international organizations to combat international terrorism. The Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 was carrying out important work on the development and adoption of new international legal anti-terrorist instruments, which would help to fill in the existing gaps in international law in that area. The main

issues dealt with by the Ad Hoc Committee included the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. Adoption of that convention was very important, as it would provide a good basis for international cooperation in terrorism prevention. He hoped that the convention would act as a deterrent and that the international community would never have to apply any of its provisions concerning the use of radioactive materials. Despite the fact that differences of opinion existed concerning various provisions of the draft convention, it was essential to adopt as soon as possible an international framework to inhibit acts of nuclear terrorism.

61. His country welcomed the initiative of France in preparing a convention for the suppression of the financing of terrorism. The establishment of a firm legal basis for combating terrorism and the development of norms concerning the unlawful financing of terrorist activities would supplement the existing conventions in that area.

62. The adoption of those two instruments was an important step forward in the endeavour to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

63. In connection with the international legal aspects of combating terrorism, he said it was very important to define the scope of acts of international terrorism, in order to distinguish, among all terrorist acts, those that were aimed at undermining international relations and were subject to international legal action.

64. The definition of the scope of international acts of terrorism might become the basis for developing the corresponding international agreements. It would then be possible, when necessary, to shift the emphasis from the individual perpetrator of the act of international terrorism to the State, which was the basic unit of international relations. That would help resolve issues relating to the definition of individual acts as acts of international terrorism and thus, issues of responsibility for them.

65. Increasing the severity of national legislation, expanding the number of acts defined as terrorist in international agreements, and the coordination of the action of police agencies, could not solve the problem alone. A qualitatively new level of international cooperation was required. From that point of view, the adoption of the convention on the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism and the convention on the suppression of the financing of terrorism would be a timely step in that direction.

66. In recent times, significant steps had been taken towards developing the cooperation of States to broaden their efforts on a political and legal basis to combat terrorism. At the same time, the level of inter-State cooperation for preventing international terrorism was still inadequate compared to the scale and serious nature of the issues that had to be resolved. There were bombings and explosions on board aircraft and sea vessels, bombings of residential buildings, hostage-taking and kidnappings which clearly showed the urgency of increasing State cooperation to eliminate terrorism. Cooperation between States should be based on the principles of the United Nations Charter, the norms of international law and values common to all mankind. International efforts should be enhanced to ensure the protection of human life, freedom and the dignity of the individual and of entire peoples.

67. The development of international terrorism had outstripped the efforts of States to combat it. Universal measures and structures were needed to eliminate terrorism. In that context, his delegation welcomed the statement by the permanent members of the Security Council on combating international terrorism, and also Security Council resolution 1269 (1999).

68. His country had concluded a number of bilateral agreements on cooperation in the field of terrorism prevention and was a party to most of the international conventions on the subject.

69. During the current session, the Belarus Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, had signed the Terrorist Bombings Convention. His country was fulfilling the obligations arising from those instruments. National measures were being taken to improve domestic legislation and bring it into compliance with the norms of international law. His country's Penal Code had expanded the interpretation of terrorism and increased the number of norms aiming to combat it.

70. States needed to share and disseminate their experience in combating terrorism, to exchange information, staff training and education, and to provide technical and consultative assistance to States which required it. He supported the proposal to shift the emphasis to practical cooperation between States, particularly on the level of unifying domestic legislation, implementing preventive measures, and seeking and handing over terrorists to the courts.

71. His country unconditionally condemned terrorism as a threat to the well-being of the international community and would provide all possible assistance in connection with international action to eliminate the phenomenon.

72. **Mr. Kanu** (Sierra Leone) said that Africa had been one of the continents affected by acts of international terrorism.

His country had experienced nine years of conflict that had all the hallmarks of international terrorism. The combatants had been able to acquire international support and finance. He therefore welcomed the Ad Hoc Committee's work on the draft international convention for the suppression of the financing of terrorism. Cutting off the source of finance was an effective means of control.

73. When his country had been confronted with international terrorism, the international community had stood idly by. Fortunately Sierra Leone had had the support of the Economic Community of West African States in ensuring that democracy prevailed. Of all the developed countries, only the United Kingdom had provided logistical and financial support, which had been much appreciated. He also commended the efforts made by Nigeria to help his country suppress terrorism.

74. His delegation was not fully satisfied with the draft text on the financing of terrorism, but it did provide a delicate balance between all the positions articulated in the Working Group. He therefore supported the draft as presented, and called on all States to support adoption of the convention, and subsequently to sign it.

Agenda item 155: Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fifty-first session (*continued*)

75. **Ms. Hallum** (New Zealand) said that a new draft had been circulated containing the text of the resolution on nationality of natural persons in relation to the succession of States, which was based on two sets of informal consultations. Those very useful discussions had lead to an accommodation of the different positions expressed.

76. Paragraph 2 reflected a balance between the need for more time and the need to maintain the momentum on the topic. It also reflected the strong views expressed regarding the usefulness of the Commission's work in that area. Although a large number of delegates had expressed positive views on the Commission's proposal for the form of a declaration, that issue was left open for the Sixth Committee to decide in the following year.

77. Paragraph 3 reflected the view expressed by many delegations that they would like the issue to be further developed, possibly in the form of a convention.

78. A number of delegations had indicated that the third, fourth and fifth preambular paragraphs would be more appropriate at a time when more substantial action was being taken; they believed that at the current stage the first and second preambular paragraphs would be sufficient. Unless there were strong objections, she would act in accordance with those comments.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.